



Dear friends & colleagues,

The Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) is pleased to be able to share with you the results of the survey undertaken by the SAB secretariat in order to provide us with insights into the current administration arrangements and the challenges being faced by FRAs, in the light of both business as usual and remedy based challenges.

[FRA remedy self-assessment survey research report](#)

We would like to thank you all for engaging with the survey and making the time to share your plans and thoughts with us. You will see that this has led to recommendations being made for both the SAB and other stakeholders. There are a number of recommendations in each of the key areas of future administration arrangements and for individual elements of remedy, namely data; contributions; processes; information, communications and coordination; knowledge, capability and capacity.

The SAB is well aware of the challenges and amount of work required to implement the various remedies and we expect that this risk will be prominent in your corporate risk registers. The SAB secretariat will be sending your individual responses to you, to benchmark against the overall average and we hope that this will help you to identify any areas for further focus to ensure that all FRAs have full project plans for the different teams required.

With regard to the communication challenges, the SAB hopes to provide assistance by making available a range of generic scenarios and some information videos in the coming months. Our committees have been busy working on this and are also looking at ways to ensure that the information resources are reaching the right people. All feedback is very welcome.

We know from the survey that the ticking timeclock is a concern. It does not seem a full year since I penned my first Christmas letter to you but we are already approaching the festive season so I thought I would also use this opportunity to reflect a little on the year's work. The year has been dominated by consultations and, in most but not all matters, their outcomes. The predominantly new Home Office pensions team has provided considerable engagement. We have all spent time considering the topics of remedy, 2016 valuations, and future valuation methodology for the cost cap and funding purposes. Meanwhile the pandemic has continued, though we are hoping that the main SAB meetings will be able to start to have a physical meeting element.

There have been changes in the SAB membership during the year. And, of course, you will also be aware of the departure of Clair Alcock to be Head of Police Pensions and the promotion of Claire Hey to be our Senior Adviser. This has left the Bluelight Team temporarily reduced in numbers and I would particularly like to thank Claire for working so hard to fill the void. I look forward to welcoming the new recruits when they are on board.

I would like also to thank my fellow SAB members, the SAB committee Chairs and all those involved in Fire Pension committees, for their invaluable contributions and impressive knowledge and willingness to work through the issues.

So happy reading of the survey and best wishes to you all for the festive season.

Joanne Livingstone. Chair, English Firefighters' Pension Scheme Advisory Board